

## Message Text

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73

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NEA-11 EB-11 COME-00 SCI-06 FEA-02 INT-08

TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-14 AID-20 SAB-01 DRC-01 /177 W

----- 099979

R 261010Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4296

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TOKYO GPPUR

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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EGMO. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA, TS, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE APPEAR SATISFIED WITH KOSAKAKA VISIT

REF: STATE 007385

1. SUMMARY: JAPANESE BELIEVE KOSAKA VISIT SUCCESSFUL IN IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH TUNISIA AND IN GIVING GOJ OPPORTUNITY EXPRESS ITS POLICIES ON MIDDLE EAST AND ENERGY CRISIS. TUNISIAN OFFICIALS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC TO GOR VIEWS BUT AVOIDED EXPLICIT ENDORSEMENT. PROBABLE AGREEMENT ON FEW JAPANESE PEACE CORPS-TYPE EXPERTS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN ONLY FORM OF SPECIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION TO EMERGE FROM KOSAKA VISIT. END SUMMARY.

2. JAPANESE ENVOY KOSAKA, ACCOMPANIED BY LARGE DELEGATION INCLUDING SENIOR ADVISORS AND FOROFF OFFICIALS, ONE MITI REPRESENTATIVE AND 8 JOURNALISTS  
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VISITED TUNIS JAN 20-22. IN ABSENCE PRESIDENT

BOURGUIBA IN GENEVA, KOSAKA DELIVERED PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PM TANAKA TO PM NOUIRA IN COURSE NINETY TWO MINUTE MEETING. KOSAKA ALSO MET WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER HAMZAOU (FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTI ALSO IN GENEVA) AND MINISTER OF PLAN MOALLA.

3. JAPANESE EMBOFF TANAKI CONFIRMED PUBLIC STATEMENT BY KOSAKA THAT PRIMARY PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO EXPLAIN GOJ POLICIES TOWARD MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS AND ENGERGY CRISIS AND TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH TUNISIA. TANAKI STATED THAT, AS COULD BE EXPECTED, TUNISIAN OFFICIALS APPEARED SYMPATHETIC TO KOSAKA EXPLANATION JAPANESE POSITION RE MIDDLE EAST AND ITS CONCERN OVER EFFECTS OF OIL CUTBACK ON WORLD ECONOMY BUT AVOIDED SPECIFIC COMMENT. KOSAKA ALSO

RAISED U.S. SPONSORED ENERGY CONFERENCE IN FEBRUARY, BUT ACCORDING TANAKI, TUNISIAN OFFICIALS AVOIDED COMMENT. REGARDING BILATERAL RELATIONS, TANAKI SAID AGREEMENT REACHED IN PRINCIPLE DURING KOSAKA VISIT TO SEND YOUNG JAPANESE TECHNICAL ADVISORS TO TUNIS. AFTER SIGNATURE OF BASIC AGREEMENT TO BE NEGOTIATED THROUGH EMBASSY, GOJ TO SEND DELEGATION TO DISCUSS PLACEMENT OF 4-5 EXPERTS IN APPROPRIATE GOT MINISTRIES OR ENTERPRISES. ACCORDING TANAK, NO OTHER FORMS OF AID DISCUSSED OR CONTEMPLATED.

4. IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED FRENCH-LANGUAGE PARTY NEWSPAPER L'ACTION, KOSAKA SAID THAT HE HAD OBTAINED UNDERSTANDING OF GOT OF JAPANESE MIDDLE EAST POLICY. HE SAID JAPAN SAW DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IN MIDEAST AS LEADING TO DURABLE PEACE AND THAT JAPAN READY TO CONTRIBUTE TO PACIFIC SETTLEMENT IN AREA. KOSAKA SAID JAPAN ATTENDING FEBRUARY ENERGY CONFERENCE "IN SPIRIT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN CONSUMING AND PRODUCING COUNTRIES" AND NOT TO FORM "COMMON FRONT OF CONSUMING COUNTRIES AGAINST THE PRODUCERS". HE ALSO STRESSED THAT WHEN POSSIBLY JUSTIFIED INCREASES OF PRICE OF CRUDE OIL OCCUR IN "BRUTAL MANNER", IT HURTS WORLD ECONOMY, DISTURBS MONETARY MARKETS AND LEADS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INCREASED WORLD INFLATION. THUS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SUFFER FROM RAPID PRICE RISES AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES LESS ABLE AID DEVELOPING WORLD. HE SAID THAT IN THIS AREA, TUNISIA'S THESIS IS "REASONABLE, REALISTIC AND VERY MODERATE".

5. REGARDING GENERAL JAPANESE-TUNISIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS, TANAKI SAID JAPAN NOT PARTICULARLY

INTERESTED IN SMALL QUANTITIES TUNISIAN OIL AND GAS  
ALTHOUGH SOME JAPANESE BUYERS PARTICIPATING IN MINI-  
AUCTION FOR TUNISIAN CRUDE IN HOPES TRADING IT FOR  
CRUDE CLOSER TO JAPAN. CONTRARY TO WHAT EMBASSY  
HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE, TANAKI SAID JAPANESE INVETOORS  
NOT PARTICULARLY ATTRACTED BY GOT INCENTIVES FOR  
ESTABLISHMENT EXPORT INDUSTRIES HERE NOR BY PROSPECTS  
USING TUNISIA AS SPRING BOARD FOR EXPORT TO COMMON  
MARKET.

6. COMMENT: DESPITE APPARENT LACK OF IMMEDIATE  
ENDORSEMENTGN WE BELIEVE GOT PROBABLY FAVORABLY  
INCLINED TO POSITION EXPRESSED BY KOSAKA. PRESIDENT  
BOURGUIBA HAS WARNED SEVERAL TIMES THT OIL WEAPON  
IS DOUBLE EDGED SWORD, AND TUNISIA HAS NOT  
PARTICIPATED IN OIL PRODUCTION EMBARGO. PRESENT GOJ  
POSITION ON MIDDLE EAST QUITE ACCEPTABLE TO GOT. TUNISIANS  
ALSO OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN OBTAINING JAPANESE  
ECONOMIC AID, INVESTMENT AND COOPERATION, BUT WE DOUBT  
GOT PREPARED EXERT MUCH INFLUENCE IN FAVOR JAPANESE  
INTERESTS IN ARAB CIRCLES UNLESS JAPANESE AID  
BECOMES MUCH GREATER THAN PRESENTLY APPARENT.  
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